

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A battery separator for an alkali secondary battery obtained by applying a polymer having in the molecule a carbodiimide unit represented by the following formula (I):



(wherein R is an organic group and n is an integer of 1 to 10,000)

to a porous sheet substrate, said battery separator having a capacity retention of about 72% or greater.

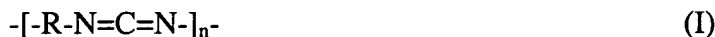
2. (previously presented): The battery separator for an alkali secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the sheet substrate is a nonwoven fabric comprising polyolefin fibers.

3. (previously presented): The battery separator for an alkali secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the sheet substrate is a porous sheet formed by sintering a powder of ultrahigh-molecular polyethylene.

4. (previously presented): The battery separator for an alkali secondary battery of claim 1, wherein a particulate or powdery polymer represented by formula (I) is present in pores of the sheet substrate.

5. (previously presented): The battery separator for an alkali secondary battery of claim 1, wherein at least part of the surface of the sheet substrate is coated with the polymer of formula (I).

6. (previously presented): A battery separator obtained by applying a polymer having in the molecule a carbodiimide unit represented by the following formula (I):



(wherein R is an organic group and n is an integer of 1 to 10,000)

to a porous sheet substrate,

which comprises a porous sheet substrate produced by aggregating polycarbodiimide-coated polymer particles obtained by forming a coating layer of the polymer of formula (I) on the surface of core particles.

7. (original): The battery separator of claim 6, wherein the core particles are a polyolefin.